travel in such planes/helicopters and the details thereof;

(d) whether any estimate has been prepared for non-officials visits made by the Defence Ministry in Army aircrafts/ helicopters;

(e) if so, who will pay them; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (f) The Defence Ministers uses Service aircraft in the discharge of his functions. Divulging the purpose of each journey, and other details would not be in public interest.

Secret plan of ULFA to Kill General Sawhney

1602. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any secret plan of the ULFA of Assam has been unearthed recently to kill General Sawhney;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to tighten security-nets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) It would not be in the public interest to disclose any details.

(c) The security forces are aware of the threat and have tightened security measures.

Moreover Govt. has taken various steps to bring the overall insurgency situation in Assam under control. These include inter-alia, deployment of Central Para-military force, Army and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of ULFA, NDFB and NSCN (I) as unlawful associations under 'The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967'.Regular review of the situation both at State and Central lavel is also being made.

Review of VIP Security to Minimise Harassment to Common People

1603. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a review of the VIP security in order to ensure that common people are spared of unwarranted harassment and minimum inconvenience is caused to them; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the review and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Govt. have recently considered the question of inconvenience which is caused to the general public during the movements of the VVIP's afresh. It has been decided to take certain measures in order to reduce such inconvenience in a manner that seurity requirements are not compromised. Necessary quidelines in this regard have been issued to the concerned authorities.

Proposal to Increase the Number of States and UTs.

1604. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the present number of States and Union Territories;

(b) whether Government would take any decision this year; and

(c) if so, the names of the proposed State and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The Government is not contemplating any general reorganisation of States. The Government's policy is to advance the principles of political, administrative and economic federalism, as a consequence of which the benefits of development are expected to percolate down much faster to the hitherto under-